

VZCZCXRO0312

OO RUEHAG RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR
DE RUEHTH #1487 2641022
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 211022Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0700
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0033
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 001487

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/09/21

TAGS: [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [MARR](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: GREEK RESPONSE TO U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE PLAN

REF: STATE 96526

CLASSIFIED BY: Daniel V. Speckhard, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

[11](#). (C) On September 18, Post delivered reftel points to the Greek MFA's NATO Directorate. They viewed the President's announcement in general terms as a positive recalibration of U.S. efforts, and queried as to the location of any future radar or launcher sites, given recent speculation in the Greek media about Turkey's role in future missile defense plans, and intentions for the U.S. to sell Patriot missiles to Turkey. Our interlocutors clarified their main interest was simply following events in their region, and not any sense of concern. They noted any Greek government would have to deal with sensationalistic stories in the Greek press in such a scenario. The Greeks appreciated the September 17 high-level briefing at NATO, and our commitment to work closely with Allies in the future.

[12](#). (C) Comment: An enhanced role for Turkey in our missile defense architecture will indeed be of concern to Greek policymakers as well as the average citizen. Sensationalistic "news" stories from the notorious Greek press could stand to box in leaders during this highly charged political season. We believe that our senior Greek interlocutors do understand the threat from Iran and the potentially important role Turkey can play. Proactive engagement with Greece as U.S. planning moves forward on future sites can help us keep the Greek government informed and on our side, and help them help us as they operate in and manage their domestic politics.
Speckhard